Action Plan for replacement of Petrol/Diesel Vehicles

969. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared an action-plan for replacement of petrol vehicles or diesel vehicles with compressed natural gas;

(b) whether the action-plan would also require immediate capital expenditure of a few hundred crores;

(c) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited has been entrusted with the job of implementation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) Gas Authority of India Limited and IBP Co. have prepared an action-plan for the use of compressed natural gas (CNG) as automotive fuel at selected locations. It is being reviewed.

Implementation of Ramdas Committee Report

970. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ramdas Committee about the aircrash of Airbus 320 has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are its recommendations for avoiding the accidents;

(c) whether the Government have implemented it; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Copies of the Report are available in Parliament Library vide Index No. 621.13252 M9.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Development of Tourism in Himachal Pradesh

971. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourists who visited Himachal Pradesh during the Tourism Year so far;

(b) whether the Himachal Pradesh Government has submitted any plan about the conducted tours of foreign tourists in the prohibited area of the State;

(c) if so, the response of the Central Government to the plan; and

(d) the special efforts being made to attract foreign tourists in the State?

THE MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) According to the statistics available from the State Government, 126,899 tourists including 125,914 domestic tourists visited Himachal Pradesh during first two months of 1991.

(b) and (c) The Central Government has agreed for the relaxation of restrictions on the entry of foreign tourists in certain parts of Himachal Pradesh based on the proposals received from the State Government.

(d) Efforts being taken include continued upgradation of tourism infrastructure and overseas publicity of tourist attractions in the State.

Special plans for tourism year

972. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the current year is being observed as 'Tourism Year';

(b) whether Government have selected 15 destination points for development as tourist spots;

(c) if so, their location and details of the development plans drawn in respect of each of these points;

(d) whether Government have also drawn up a coordinated tourism development plan involving all the States, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what special steps Government have taken to attract foreign tourists to visit the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, the Department of Tourism has identified eighteen extension circuits for promotion during the year, which also amis at strengthening tourism infrastructure.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Some of the steps taken to attract foreign tourists include:

(i) Simplification of visa procedure including grant of multi-entry visa.

(ii) Promotion of new areas and travel circuits in the country.

(iii) Promotion of traditional fairs and festivals during the year.

(iv) Strengthening of tourism infrastructure in the country.

(v) Aggressive marketing campaigns in selected international markets.

Boeing services for Belgaum

973. SHRI PRABHAKAR B. KORE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines is planning to make improvement at the Belgaum Airport for operation o Boeing service;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) what are the details abou other facilities Indian Airlines pro pose to provide at Belgaum Airpor in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHR MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) t (c) Due to financial constraints, the National Airports Authority has nc plans at present to upgrade Belgaum airport for Boeing aircraft operations The Indian Airlines is maintaining a computerised booking office for facilitating reservation and ticketing o passengers on other sectors of Indian Airlines.

Distance Measuring Equipment a Imphal airport

974. SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cour of Enquiry of Bombay Avro Crash or 5th August, 1979 recommended availability of D.M.E. to pilots;

(b) whether Indian Commercia Pilots Association had also asked the DGCA for installation of D.M.E. a Imphal;

(c) if so, whether Imphal D.M.E (Distance Measuring Equipment) i co-located; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHR MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) The Court had recommended tha steps should be taken to equip al HS-748 aircraft with Distance Measuring Equipment.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.